

Clelia 617

Pilot: Ben Chong

Obs. 1: Grant Gilmore

Obs. 2: Paul Orlando

Date: 09/03/01

Depth range: 220-270'

Time: 17:48 at wreck to-19:42

Cocoa Beach 617

Objectives: Transects/exploration

General Habitat: The Cocoa area surveyed consists of mostly a sandy bottom terrain with large heavily encrusted rock boulders scattered about. Some *Oculina* rubble was seen in localized areas with only a few pieces of intact dead *Oculina*. No live *Oculina* was seen except on the ship wreck.

- The dive started out over sand bottom and came onto a ship wreck site. The ship had a few small live clumps of *Oculina* on it and many small dead clumps. Some of these dead clumps had live outer tips. More than likely this ship gets covered over with sand on occasion and the coral never has time to grow very large.
- Once away from the wreck the majority of the dive consisted of a series of sand mounds and rock outcrops surrounded by mostly a sand/rubble bottom. The most rubble was seen clumped up in large piles on the sides of some of the sand mounds/ridges. Scattered rubble was at the base of the large rock formations. The rock substrate itself was heavily encrusted in orange sponges and small gorgonians. There were sandy knolls here and there that looked like a beach with just wire coral and small gorgonians.
- The end of the dive was over an open sand bottom with a few small rocks.

Invertebrates:

- Black long spine urchins (*Diadematidae*) were all over the wreck. Red brittle stars, some encrusting sponge and other epibionts also were associated with the ship wreck.
- Throughout the dive *Diadematidae* and *Eucidaria*(pencil urchins) were scattered about.
- Anemones were over the rubble bottom areas.
- Many different types of sponge were present especially on the large rock mounds. Orange encrusting sponge was the most common.

Human Impacts:

- One large sailing vessel wreck- maybe early 20th century?
 - Good habitat for fish
 - Some live coral present

Fish:

- Divers were surprised to see the diversity of species in light of there not being very much intact or live *Oculina*. Most of these species only were present around

the larger relief which had dense growth of various epibionts.

- Small fish aggregated around rock boulders. *Halichores bathyphilus* and *Serranus phoebe* were also dispersed in good numbers over the sand/rubble bottom areas.

Commercially Important Species

- Large species were few and sparse.
 - **1 small-medium *Mycteroperca phenax*** seen on wreck
 - **1 average size *Epinephelus niveatus*** seen on open bottom area at the end of the dive. It swam way from the sub. It was probably shy because there was no cover around
- * Sub also saw 1 other *M. Phenax*, 2 large species thought to be possibly *Lutjanus* sp, and maybe a gag. These species were spotted around the large rock mounds but not seen on the video.

Other Species Observed

	<i>Acanthurus</i> sp.		<i>Equetus lanceolatus</i>		<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.
	Anthiinae	A	<i>Equetus</i> sp.	S	<i>Plectranthias garrupellus</i>
	<i>Apogon pseudomaculatus</i>		<i>Equetus umbrosus</i>		<i>Plectrypops retrospinus</i>
	<i>Bodianus pulchellus</i>		<i>Equetus iwamotoi</i>		<i>Pomacetrus</i> sp.
	<i>Centropristis ocyurus</i>		<i>Gymnothorax moringa</i>		<i>Priacanthus arenatus</i>
	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	M	<i>Halichores bathyphilus</i>	M	<i>Pristigenys alta</i>
	<i>Centropristis fuscula</i>		<i>Halichores</i> sp		<i>Rypticus maculatus</i>
M	<i>Chaetodon aya</i>	F	<i>Hemanthias vivanus</i>		<i>Scorpaena</i>
F	<i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i>	F	<i>Holacanthus bermudensis</i>		<i>Serranus flaviventris</i>
M	<i>Chaetodon sedentarias</i>		<i>Holacanthus ciliaris</i>	M	<i>Serranus phoebe</i>
	<i>Chaetodon</i> sp.	A	<i>Holanthias martinicensis</i>	S	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>
	<i>Chromis cyanea</i>	F	<i>Holocentrus adscensionis</i>	S	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>
F	<i>Chromis enchrysurus</i>		<i>Holocentrus</i> sp.		<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i>
	<i>Chromis scotti</i>		Labridae	F	Callionymidae
F	<i>Decodon puellaris</i>	F	<i>Liopropoma eukrines</i>		<i>Canthigaster urosticta</i>

	Acanthurus sp.		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
	Anthiinae	A	Equetus sp.	S	Plectranthias garrupellus
	Diplectrum formosum		Ogcocephalus sp.		Canthigaster sp

Good shots:

3chip1: 18:08Rt 20:05

Good shot of wreck with 1 Scamp, 12 Equetus sp and a close up of the live coral growth on the mast.

617-1.mpg 617-1.jpg----fish
617-2.mpg 617-2.jpg-----coral

2. 18:40Rt 50:48

Hard bottom with dense sponge and small octocoral growth

617-3.mpg
617-3.jpg

3chip2

3. 18:53rt 00:54

sand/ rubble
617-4.mpg

617-4.jpg

4. 19:19rt 28:51

Large rock mound with some intact dead Oculina heads, tips are possibly live

617-5.mpg
617-5.jpg

5. 19:41rt 48:19

Flat sand at the end of the dive with a retreating Snowy grouper

617-6.mpg

